

In the Claims:

1. (Original) An image processing device provided with a first image-taking mode used in a bright environment and a second image-taking mode used in a dark environment, comprising:

a lens unit which forms an optical image of an object on an imaging element;

an iris which adjusts a light quantity which has entered said lens unit;

an imaging element having an electronic shutter function of outputting the optical image of the object for which the light quantity from said iris is adjusted as an image signal;

an AGC amplifier which amplifies an image/video signal from said imaging element and can adjust an amplification gain thereof;

signal processing means for obtaining a video signal by subjecting the image signal amplified by said AGC amplifier to signal processing;

comparison means for comparing the brightness signal level of said video signal indicating the brightness of the object with a predetermined reference brightness signal level; and

imaging control means,

wherein in said second image-taking mode, said imaging control means changes the length of period of said electronic shutter function for every period of a multiple of two fields, continuously changes the electronic shutter-ON time (exposure time) in accordance with the period and holds the electronic shutter-ON time at a time point at which the output of said comparison means at which said brightness signal level matches said reference brightness signal level becomes 0 (zero).

2. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the imaging control means comprises iris control means for adjusting said iris when the brightness around is brighter than a predetermined value and darker than a predetermined value and holding

the iris when the output of the comparison means at which the brightness signal level matches the reference brightness signal level becomes 0 (zero).

3. (Original) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the imaging control means comprises gain control means for adjusting the gain of the AGC amplifier when the brightness around is darker than a predetermined value and holding the gain value when the output of said comparison means at which said brightness signal level matches said reference brightness signal level becomes 0 (zero).

4-11. (Canceled)